



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

Date: 3/28/14

Connie Ellis
509 N Maple St Apt 101
Creston, IA 50801

Complaint Description: The Department received a complaint concerning improper disciplinary practices.

Rule Basis: Findings considered in accordance to Rule(s) 110.5(6)a "Corporal punishment including spanking, shaking, and slapping is not used."

Findings: Unannounced in-person spot check conducted on 3/27/14. Connie Ellis denied any use of corporal punishment with her childcare operation. The young child in question was in attendance during my spot check. He appeared very happy, comfortable with the home environment, and showed no signs of any fear or apprehension towards provider. Connie shared with me that most of the senior residents in the apartment complex really enjoy seeing the young child around the building, though one person has complained and made "controversial" or "trouble stirring" remarks regarding the child being in the open common areas of the building and the noise created by the in-home childcare.

I also visited with the building manager who lives in the apartment just across the hall from Connie's unit. She indicated "never" hearing any inappropriate arguments, yelling or disciplinary practices. She went on to tell me the noise level related to Connie's childcare operation has never been a problem. She confirmed Connie's claim that most of the seniors in the building really enjoy seeing a young person full of life and energy around the commons area though one resident seems "sour" about the practice. "Connie has since stopped bringing the child out to the commons area much to the disappointment of most of the residents."

Resolution: Based upon my interview with the provider, my observations of the child in the environment, and my interview with an outside observer to the environment, I have no evidence to indicate any past or present use of corporal punishment or signs of the provider being out of compliance.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Earl Crow
Child Development Home Compliance Checks
DHS, Story County
(515) 268-7106